

NEW YORK HERALD  
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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ROWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Port, on, AWAY DOWN SOUTH—FAMILY JARS.  
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth st.—FOURTH OF JULY.  
TRINITY SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Third and Fourth streets.—ADAMS.  
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Blackett sts.—ALADDIN THE MAGICIAN.  
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—THE WASHINGTON BUTCHER, ALADDIN THE MAGICIAN, and EVENING.  
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA—LINDA DI CHAMOUNE.  
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth street.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.  
THEATRE COMIQUE, 614 Broadway.—KING OF CARDS.  
BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth avenue.—ROMEO AND JULIET.  
STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—READINGS IN COSTUME.  
TERRACE GARDEN THEATRE, 5th st. between Lexington and 3d avs.—OPERA—LORETTA BORGIA.  
MRS. F. W. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING—EVENING'S PRIZE.  
BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. corner 6th av.—THE MISTRESS OF REVERENDITY, &c.  
WHITE'S THEATRE, No. 565 Broadway.—SPLENDID VARIETY OF NOVELTIES.  
TORY PASTORS' OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, &c.  
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, St. James Theatre, corner of 2d st. and Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS.  
KELLY & LEON'S, 715 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS.  
BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS, Fourteenth street, near Broadway.—Day and Evening.  
RAILEY'S GREAT CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE, foot of Houston street, East River.  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, 23d st. and 4th av.—GRAND EXHIBITION OF PAINTING.  
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 614 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Monday, Nov. 25, 1872.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE AMERICAN NATION: THE SPREAD OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS.—LEADER—SIXTH PAGE.  
REDEMPTING AFRICA: THE ANGLO-AMERICAN NAVIES COMBINED AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE: BATTLE FRERE'S MISSION: THE KHEDIVE OF EGYPT STRIVING TO SECURE THE NILE SOURCES.—SEVENTH PAGE.  
STANLEY'S RECEPTION OF LIVINGSTONE IN NEW YORK: A PLEASANT MEETING BETWEEN THE HERALD'S CHIEF EXPLORER AND A BROTHER OF THE FAMOUS DOCTOR: KALULU PRESENT.—THIRD PAGE.  
BY CABLE FROM EUROPE AND PERSIA: RADICAL OUTBREAKS IN ROME AND IN SPAIN: THE FRENCH CRISIS: A STEAMSHIP DISABLED: ADMIRAL ALDEN'S SQUADRON.—SEVENTH PAGE.  
FINANCIAL RETROSPECT FOR THE WEEK: THE "CORNER" IN NORTHWESTERN: REASONS FOR THE ADVANCE TO 230 AND FOR THE NON-OCCURRENCE OF FAILURES: HOW THEY MANAGE IT IN LONDON: WHY GOLD TOUCHED 114.—EIGHTH PAGE.  
MATRIMONIAL SCHEMES OF AN IRISH ADVENTURER: A TWO-CONFIDING YOUNG LADY: ELOPEMENT, MARRIAGE, BIGAMY AND BOGS BANK ACCOUNTS AT POUGHKEEPSIE.—THIRD PAGE.  
IMPOSING INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST JAPANESE RAILWAY: THE EMPEROR'S MIEN, DRESS AND ADDRESSES: JAPANESE LOYALTY, SPORTS AND MUSIC: GRAND TELEGRAPHIC DEMONSTRATION.—FIFTH PAGE.  
A CHINESE EARTHQUAKE: WHAT THE CELESTIALS THOUGHT OF IT: TRANSPACIFIC STEAMERS: A COREAN FAMINE: INDIAN PEPPER, FATAL DISASTER, SUICIDE AND MURDER—ASIATIC AQUATICS.—FIFTH PAGE.  
WASHINGTON NEWS—NIBLO'S RECONSTRUCTED LITERARY, MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL PARAPHRASES—PRIZE FIGHT—NAVAL.—THIRD PAGE.  
BRAZIL AND THE ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION: NEGOTIATIONS PEACEFULLY PROGRESSING: THE ARGENTINES EAGER TO ANNEX PARAGUAY: AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.—TENTH PAGE.  
LESSONS OF THE HOUR FROM PIOUS STANDPOINTS: DISCOURSES BY FAMOUS, SENSATIONAL AND UNSENSATIONAL DIVINES.—FOURTH PAGE.  
A MARTYR'S DUST: THE REMAINS OF ST. JUSTINUS BROUGHT FROM THE CATACOMBS AT ROME TO THIS CITY: AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY AND MOVING PANEGYRIC: THE VIAL OF BLOOD.—FIFTH PAGE.  
OUR LIGHTHOUSE SYSTEM: LENSES, LIGHTS, KEYS AND SUPPLIES: THE LAMPS OF COMMERCE: INTERESTING FACTS AND STATISTICS.—NINTH PAGE.  
CAUSES AND SYMPTOMS OF AND REMEDIES FOR THE HIPPOZYMOSIS—DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—NINTH PAGE.  
ART AND ARTISTS—GENERAL THOMAS' MONTMONT—THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONALS.—FIFTH PAGE.  
FATAL RESULTANT OF RUM AND EVIL COMPANY—A WONDROUS TALE—THE POOR ITALIANS—MARINE NEWS.—TENTH PAGE.

THE ILLNESS OF THE KING OF SPAIN.—A rumor was current in London on Saturday to the effect that King Amadeus was dead. It was known that His Majesty had been sick; but as it had not been imagined that his sickness was of a serious character the rumor created considerable excitement and surprise. Later despatches of an official character contradicted the rumor and gave the assurance that the King was in better health. Amadeus has had but little comfort in Spain. In most difficult circumstances he has conducted himself well, and given proof of considerable capacity as a ruler. His people, however, have proved ungrateful, and now it seems that the harsh climate of Madrid is ill-suited to his Italian constitution. Dissatisfied as some of the Spanish people are with Amadeus his death at this juncture would be a national calamity.

FROM THE SEVERE SNOW STORM AT Salt Lake City on Saturday last, coming at once from the northwest and the southeast, it is feared in that quarter that among the snowy regions along the Union Pacific Railroad travel may be impeded and trains blocked. From the East to the West the signs so far warn us of the approach of a rough winter.

The Foreign Policy of the American Nation—The Spread of Republican Institutions.

As General Grant will soon enter upon a second term of office, endorsed by a popular vote largely non-partisan in its character, the Herald has deemed it opportune to suggest to the President such changes in the policy of his administration as it believes will be honorable to himself, acceptable to the people and conducive to the public interests. We originally suggested the election of General Grant as Chief Magistrate of the nation, because we felt convinced that the qualities he had displayed in so eminent a degree as a military leader would be valuable in the reconstruction of the ex-rebel States after the termination of the war, and that his personal character would be likely to raise him above the influences of professional politicians. We have given his present administration, from first to last, a discriminating and disinterested support, deeming all factional opposition, although not hesitating to criticize its acts or to blame where censure has been deserved. Hence we claim the right to assume the part of an adviser of the President at the commencement of his second term, and we are gratified to find that the suggestions we have offered for his consideration have appeared to meet his approval and have received the endorsement of independent journals in all parts of the Union. Our suggestions have had relation mainly to the future treatment of the Southern States, the real improvement and elevation of the civil service and the tone of our foreign policy. We have insisted that the measures of reconstruction heretofore adopted by Congress have failed to restore peace and order in the South; that, on the contrary, they have been calculated to keep alive the bitter memories of the war and the hatreds and suspicions engendered by slavery; to place the States under the control of corrupt adventurers and to create an undesirable conflict between the white and colored races. We have encouraged the President to persevere in his efforts to make capacity, and not political influence, the test in the appointment of public officers, and have urged upon Congress the duty of aiding instead of obstructing the work. We have advocated such a policy towards foreign nations as would be likely to hasten the independence of neighboring peoples and to promote the establishment of independent republican governments in what are now the colonial possessions of European powers.

General Grant has already given evidence of a desire to adopt a generous course towards the Southern States, and journals and politicians hitherto opposed to his administration have avowed their determination to support him in his new departure. The necessity for a change of treatment is clearly shown in the disorders that have followed the elections in Louisiana, Alabama and Arkansas, and the large vote cast for the President in the Southern section of the country is a sufficient proof that the Southern people are willing to trust their future in his hands and to look to him for protection and justice. The civil service reform has been practically set in motion in the case of the Philadelphia Postmaster, and will, no doubt, be carried out in the selection of a Surveyor of the Port of New York and in other offices as vacancies occur or as changes become desirable. In regard to our foreign policy the position of the Herald has been somewhat misunderstood. In many quarters the impression seems to prevail that we favor an unfriendly attitude towards European Powers and advocate an extension of our present territorial limits by the annexation of Cuba, Mexico and Canada. Our Canadian neighbors have by this error been led to assail us with more violence than reason, conservative American journals have protested against our supposed aggressive policy, and an English writer in a London publication—the *Anglo-American Times*—whose views will be found in another column, seeks an explanation of our imaginary "Anglophobia" in the corrupting influence of Russia. According to this authority the two great newspapers of the Old and the New World—the *London Times* and the *Herald*—are engaged in the congenial task of undermining the peace of England and the United States, and both are in the Russian service. To be sure they are journals representative of their respective countries; to be sure their circulation is enormous and their influence great; but by some mysterious means they are controlled in St. Petersburg, and their mission is to destroy the nations with whose growth they have grown and with whose prosperity they have prospered. There is something supremely ridiculous in the fancies of this English alarmist; yet they are in fact no more chimerical than are the imaginations of those who believe that the Herald is the fierce advocate of war and annexation.

When the great Napoleon held the destinies of Europe in his hands he had it in his power to destroy forever the doctrine of the divine right of kings and to teach the people how to govern themselves, whether under the form of an empire or of a republic. He had given to the French an emperor of their own creation and had made legitimacy tremble on every throne in Europe. If he had left the nations he conquered to choose their own rulers, as the French had chosen theirs, he would have built up allies, bound to him by interest and self-pride, on every side. But when he "annexed" throne after throne to his own family circle he lost the power and influence he would otherwise have secured, and raised up enemies where he should have created friends. The American Republic does not need any more territory than it now possesses, and a policy of aggression and annexation would weaken rather than strengthen our own government and the principle of republicanism. With Canada free and independent—free, we mean, from her present colonial complications—we should have a friendly neighbor bound to us by ties of mutual interest, and more valuable to us than she would ever be as a State or States of the Union. With Cuba free and independent we should have relations with the Island Republic equally advantageous to both nations without the evils that would inevitably follow annexation. The same is true in regard to Mexico. A strong and stable government across the Rio Grande would give us largely increased trade and be beneficial to us in every way, while annexation would be in many respects undesirable.

The American Republic will not commit the error of Napoleon. The desire of our people is to see freedom in its broadest sense spread over all the territory of the globe. Especially should we be gratified to find our neighbors on this side of the Atlantic living under republican forms of government of their own choosing, as independent of ourselves as the monarchies to which they are now attached, but bound to us by sympathy, principle and interest. But we have no wish to compel them to accept our freedom as their freedom, or to have any closer relationship with us than that of fellow republics.

The Herald is the advocate of peace and not of war. All its hopes and interests are bound up in the progress and prosperity of the country. If we advocate a firm and dignified tone in our relations with foreign nations it is because we believe that firmness and dignity are the best sureties of lasting peace. We appeal to the reason, not to the passions, of our Canadian neighbors, when we point out to them the advantages of that independence which the leading journal of England, inspired by the government, urges them to take up. It is undeniable that the separation of Canada from England would remove the last faint chance of war with the United States, and the alliance with the mother country can be of value only in the event of such a calamity. When we advocate such a policy towards Cuba as would aid the success of the Cuban Republic and lead to the abolition of slavery on the island, we plead in favor of peace—we seek the extinguishment of a firebrand that is burning on our threshold. When we suggest a protectorate in Mexico we propose the pacification of our borders, the cessation of murders and robberies that may at any moment lead to more serious hostilities, and the protection of a neighboring people in their rights as citizens of a republic. It is, then, strictly in the cause of peace—of peace not hollow and insecure, but earnest and assured—that the Herald calls upon President Grant to inaugurate a firm, dignified and courteous policy toward foreign powers with the commencement of his new term of office. It is in the cause of peace that we desire to see Canada act upon the challenge of England and assert her own manhood and independence; that we hope for the speedy success of the republican cause in Cuba, and for the establishment of a strong and stable government in Mexico. But we want no annexation—we seek no territorial expansion; and our contemporaries who look upon us as fire-eaters and filibusters as much in error as is the English alarmist whose terrors picture the *London Times* and the *Herald* as the agents of the Russian Empire, only awaiting the favorable opportunity to land over England and the United States to the government of St. Petersburg.

Christian Crusade Against the African Slave Trade.

The eyes of the Christian world are being directed with still more eager and anxious intensity towards the coast of Africa daily. The horrors of the slave trade, as they have been specially depicted by the pen of Livingstone in the universal press of the world from New York, have moved the sympathy of the peoples for their immediate abatement and final obliteration. The great liberating and enfranchising governments ascertained the emotional aspiration of the popular heart instantly, and have obeyed its humanitarian impulse. A special Herald telegram by cable from London, published in our columns to-day, reports that the United States steamer *Yantic* has arrived at Aden bound to Zanzibar, and that it is probable the American frigate *Colorado* will carry the flag of one of our Admirals from the waters of Asia to the African coast at the same point of destination. The British war steamer *Briton* awaits Sir Bartle Frere at Aden, and we are told how the naval steam yacht *Enchantress* is employed for the service of the same British expeditionary missionary. This intelligence is at once exciting and consoling. The era of "man's inhumanity to man" will, we doubt not, be soon closed and a new day of light-dawn shine on the people of Africa. The force of the Euro-American movement has been felt in Egypt. The Khedive is preparing to despatch troops to Zanzibar. We are informed that His Highness hopes to be enabled to anticipate the English expedition in the seizure of the lake regions of the Nile. The wording "seizure of" appears to indicate that the Egyptian ruler either misapprehends or misinterprets the slavery abolition resolves of the Anglo-Saxon nations or that his ideas of materialist profits and commercial advantages have momentarily overtopped his good nature. Germany is being instructed by her scientists, cautiously yet carefully, as to her national duty in the crisis of the African liberation cause, and she will be found, we are quite persuaded, on the right side and for complete justice, without distinction of color, at the proper moment.

Mr. WILLIAM BUTLER DUNCAN has come forward with a card, published in another column, denying the statement made to one of our reporters on Saturday by Jay Gould in reference to Mr. Duncan's share in the events at present agitating Wall street. He had, he states, no connection with any "pool," and that he has not been, directly or indirectly, interested in any such alleged combinations. He adds, more explicitly, that he has not bought or sold nor had any interest in the troubled Northwestern stock. His connection, he explains, with the proceedings against Mr. Gould is as one of the Erie Railroad Executive Committee, in which capacity he has aided President Watson in bringing the suit against the great "bull" and becoming one of the sureties for costs in the action. The evidence, Mr. Duncan states, has been in process of collection for months.

EVACUATION DAY.—Remember, remember, that this is the 25th of November.

THE MEXICAN BORDER COMMISSION, at Matamoros, have issued a notice inviting all parties on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande who have been plundered by freebooters from our side, and all parties on our side who have been plundered by the banditti from the other side, to bring in their claims and their testimony—a proceeding which, we are glad to say, looks like business.

An American Political and Commercial System Wanted—The Policy To Be Pursued.

Every great civilized nation has some defined political and commercial system in connection with its relations to the rest of the world, and one that is believed to be adapted to its own interests, development and future, except the great American Republic. England has had her colonial policy—that of the conquest of India and the accession of territory in all parts of the globe—with a view to enlarge her commerce, to find markets for her manufactures, to increase her power and dignity and to enrich her people at home. She had formerly, too, a Continental European policy for maintaining the so-called balance of power and upholding her commercial supremacy. She had her period of tariff protection to foster manufacturing industry and the land-holding interest. And now, when she is able to produce so cheaply and abundantly as to compete successfully with other nations, or to sell more cheaply in the markets of the world, she advocates the principle of free trade. The policy of England changes with varying circumstances, both politically and commercially, but is always adapted to her own interests and aggrandizement, regardless of abstract principles or the welfare of other countries. The same remarks would apply to the national aggrandizement ambition of France under different governments, and particularly under the Napoleons, until prostrated and shorn of her glory by the late war. Even the protective tariff policy of M. Thiers, whether right or wrong, according to the principles of political economy, is based upon a system in which the interests of France are only considered. Germany is thinking solely of her own grandeur and destiny in the consolidation of the Empire, in the acquisition of territory, and in laws made to regulate commerce and intercourse. Russia gives no heed to the opinions of other nations beyond what suits her own convenience or safety, in extending her empire or fostering her industry and commerce. Spain clings to her remaining American colonies and rules them with a rod of iron, against the will of the people, and upholds slavery in them, in defiance of the sentiment of the civilized world, because they are deemed profitable and because Spanish pride would be wounded at the loss of them. In the same way we might mention other nations which have some defined system of policy in their external and commercial relations, as well as in their territorial ambition, bearing exclusively upon their own interests and aggrandizement.

But, as was said, this great Republic has no determined policy or system, commercial or international, within the particular sphere of its influence. It is the overshadowing power of the American Continent, yet is hemmed in and partly surrounded by European possessions, restricting trade, imposing injurious tariffs and giving continual annoyance. We have had prolonged trouble about Cuba on one side and the British possessions on the other, both with the mother countries and the colonists. With regard to the British American colonies we are compelled to keep a little army of custom house officials on the border, and even then cannot prevent extensive smuggling and frauds on the revenue; and as to Cuba, we are called upon to maintain a naval force to prevent the slave trade with that island, to protect our citizens from Spanish aggression and to carry out treaty obligations with Spain. Nor have we that freedom of amount of trade we ought to have with such neighboring countries. The policy of the European home governments has been to draw as much of that trade as possible from us and to prevent free intercourse. The local or geographical advantages we possess have been set aside to some extent by the restrictions imposed upon our commerce and the greater freedom given to the trade between the colonies and the mother countries. Nor have we that extended trade and political influence with the Spanish-American Republics we ought to have as the great dominant Power in this hemisphere. England and other nations have taken away a large portion of the business that lies at our door. In fact, we have had no comprehensive American policy to attach the different nations of this Continent to our country and to encourage commerce with them.

The extension of our republican empire has been the result of accidents and the liberal impulses of the people, and did not come from any defined policy. Even the Monroe doctrine, protesting against the reconquest of American territory and extension of European monarchical institutions on this Continent by the governments of Europe, which England for selfish purposes induced our government to proclaim, has been practically almost a dead letter. We have territory enough, and care not to annex more, unless the people inhabiting adjacent countries should adopt our institutions and voluntarily ask to be admitted to the Union. But we do want to see the whole of America republican and to have the most free commercial intercourse with these United States. So long as England and Spain have colonies here there will be injurious tariffs, jealousies and complications, leading us sometimes to the verge of war, and some day possibly, to war, and therefore we desire to see these colonies independent and become members of the family of American republics. It is desirable, also, to form closer relations with the republics that now exist, so that we may exercise that influence which properly pertains to the dominant Republic of America, and, as a consequence, to enlarge our commerce.

One of the first questions that should engage the attention of the President and Congress in connection with this American policy is that relative to Cuba. The state of things in that island is a disgrace not only to Spain, but to the civilized world. The horrors of civil war there are appalling. Nowhere in modern times have such barbarities been known. They have existed for four years, and there appears to be no prospect of a termination of them. American citizens and interests are not safe there. Indeed, the Spaniards in Cuba have committed the most brutal outrages upon our citizens. Slavery exists there, and is likely to exist while Spanish rule continues, in defiance of the public sentiment of the world and protests of our government. Spain mocks at these protests. They will be unavailing as long as this country and the rest of the world indirectly encourage slavery

by trading in and using slave products. The people of the United States are specially responsible for this blot upon civilization. Of the five hundred and forty thousand tons of slave-produced sugar in Cuba, to say nothing of other products, the United States takes about sixty per cent. The trade between this country and Cuba is really the main support of slavery, for without that the island would prove profitless, comparatively, to the Spaniards. Should we not, then, prohibit the introduction of slave-grown sugar, or impose a duty of a hundred per cent or so, and thus strike a blow at slavery? The Cubans, if independent, would supply us with the products of free labor, for they have abolished slavery in their constitution. It has been said that we should punish ourselves by such a course. Are we not prepared to make some sacrifice if necessary to abolish slavery and to help the Cubans to independence? What becomes of all our professions of love of liberty if we are not? But we should not be deprived of sugar. Cuba would be long supply that as a product of free labor, and we would obtain it from other sources. We have a vast sugar region in Louisiana, and such a policy as we propose would give an extraordinary stimulus to the production there. Let us, then, begin with Cuba to promote republican institutions and to establish a comprehensive political and commercial system for America at the same time that we strike a blow at slavery on our border.

France—The President and the Assembly.

According to our latest news from Paris the relations of the President and the Assembly are still far from satisfactory. The committee of the Assembly appointed to draw up a reply to the President's message has not yet reported, and as it is generally admitted that the reply will either avert or precipitate the crisis now impending, the report of the Assembly's committee is awaited with much anxiety. President Thiers has hitherto been strong because he has leaned for support mainly on the Right. The Right, however, has of late become somewhat obstructive, and now the President looks to the Left and leans particularly on the Left Centre. It is only a few days since the Deputies of the Left held a special meeting, when it was unanimously agreed to recommend for the adoption of the Assembly certain measures looking in the direction of radical constitutional change. Some of these measures, it appears, the President is disposed to favor. He will not oppose the formation of a Second Chamber, and he is willing to favor some definitive settlement of the relations between the legislative and executive departments of the government. As to the conduct of the internal affairs of the country, the President adheres to the conservative ground taken in his message. On Saturday he had an interview with the committee appointed to draw up a reply to the message, and stated his views freely. It is quite manifest that the President is anxious to do all he can in the way of conciliation. It is doubtful, however, whether he will be able much longer to compel the obedience of the Assembly. The reply to the message will fully reveal the situation.

THE VOTE OF NEW YORK—CURIOUS RESULTS.

We have at last the complete official returns of the vote of the Empire State in the late elections, State and national, and the figures exhibit some curious results. Our Presidential vote of 1863 and of 1872 was as follows:—

	1863.	1872.
Seymour.....	429,883	Grant..... 440,804
Grant.....	419,883	Greeley..... 387,357
Seymour's maj.....	10,900	Grant's maj..... 53,447

And this gain to General Grant and this loss to the opposition are chiefly in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, as the figures will show:—

1863—Vote of New York city for Seymour.....	108,316
1872—Vote of this city for Greeley.....	77,798

Opposition loss..... 30,518  
Increased vote for Grant..... 6,975

Total opposition loss in this city..... 37,493

In the full vote of the State we find that Dix runs some 5,000 ahead of Grant, while Kernan runs 4,000 ahead of Greeley, and that Dix's gains and Kernan's losses are nearly all in this city and Brooklyn. And, again, on the full State vote we find that Dewey leads Greeley by 10,000 votes, while Robinson leads Grant by over 1,000. From these figures it will be seen that as in 1868 and 1874 the Governor and State ticket in New York in 1872 drew out a larger vote than the Presidential Electors, although the national contest carries everything with it. Lastly, while the General Grant vote of 1872 exceeds by nearly 21,000 his vote of 1868, there is a deficiency this year in the whole vote of the State, compared with 1868, of 21,605, which may be set down to those Bourbon democrats who on election day stayed at home.

POLITICAL CONSERVATISM IN IRELAND.—The return of Mr. Lewis, a conservative Tory, to the English Parliament as member for Londonderry, Ireland, goes to show that the Anglo-Hibernian aristo-democracy is determined to sap and mine industriously in its political engineering against the Gladstone Cabinet and the Premier's parliamentary coalition prior to and at the next general election in Great Britain. Mr. Lewis, the new member for Derry, is an Englishman, but notwithstanding the fact of his being a stranger he has defeated the candidate of the home rulers, and also beaten the nominee of the Roman Catholic hierarchy and laity, besides outvoting an eminent local city merchant, a Presbyterian, of the same stripe of politics as himself. The result will give a heavy blow to the power of Irish insular combinations with views and interests adverse to the general national spirit of the United Kingdom.

CURIOUS CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN SPAIN—OPPOSITION TO THE ARMY CONSCRIPTION LAW.

The Spanish capital was disturbed during the day on Monday, the 18th instant, in consequence of the opposition which was given by the people to the operation of the Army Conscription law. Madrid was isolated from communication with Barcelona, Girona, Seville and Cadiz, the telegraph wires communicating with these important points having been cut. The interruption in the transmission of news was so complete that the report of the occurrences only reached England, by mail, yesterday. This latter fact is at once novel and extraordinary, and demonstrates forcibly how quickly the onward tide of human knowledge and progress may be set back by revolutionary riot. Here we are told of the existence of a

very dangerous movement for governmental change in Spain, and yet the English people, deeply interested as they are in the condition of affairs in the Peninsular Kingdom, did not know of the fanning of the flame which was being carried on almost in sight of their upper windows for a week after the flicker of the light. Almost as bad as the days of Badajoz, Talavera and Waterloo.

The Italian Opera—Its Critics and Defenders.

In yesterday's *HERALD* we published three letters from correspondents signing themselves "Free Lance," "Musicians" and "Viator," on the state of Italian opera in this city, together with an interview accorded by Mr. Maretzek to one of the *HERALD* writers. Between all of those thus enlightening the public on musical matters we find, as among doctors generally, considerable disagreement. Mr. Maretzek, speaking under his name, gives an opinion which may fairly be expected under the circumstances, since it quietly accepts the judgment of the public as represented by the relative filling of the house at certain performances. Managers may think and aspire inwardly about art; but their recitative for the public will usually have a bank note rustic *obligato*. In an appeal, however, against the critics who have spoken unfavorably of his company in bulk, he opens a bag for the escape of a managerial feline that has long and justly been complained of. Defending his theory that artists grow favorably upon the public by familiarity, he gives quite a new turn to the idea, which rolls it of all strangeness, since he admits that it is from the actual improvement of the artists themselves. In his own words, it is "the more the artists sing together the better the *ensemble* becomes. I think that a new company, strange to each other and strange to the public, should not be judged at first as an *ensemble*, for a new opera company can no more be really effective in drill and discipline than a newly formed army." While all this is very plausible it is a plain admission that he has brought a company before the public without a decent attention to wearing down their crude incompetencies, for among the best artists such would exist at the start. It is a serious acknowledgment of the justness of attacks made upon what is peculiarly the duty of the management.

When referring to the individual artists of his company he naturally deals tenderly with them, as a dealer would with any merchandise in his storehouse. We may, therefore, turn on this point to our three correspondents. We have found in them frequently a reference to a *parti pris*—that is to say, each accuses the other of a deliberate effort to defend some particular artist or artists on private grounds, and grounds unworthy, on that account, of place in a critical essay.

We are not called on to adjudicate in this matter, and for this all-sufficient reason leave platonic or interested likes and dislikes between them. "Viator" and "Musicians" are both intense admirers of Mme. Lucca, while "Free Lance" declares her to be a false goddess in some of the points wherein her adorners most chant her praise. That both these writers should have compared him to the youth who set fire to Diana's temple did not escape our notice a week ago, and "Free Lance," in yesterday's *HERALD*, chuckles triumphantly thereon in calling "Viator" the alter ego of "Musicians." Here again we leave the matter of the *parti pris* out of our consideration and come to the point at issue. Is Lucca all her champions declare her? The only serious attempt to controvert "Free Lance" in his condemnation of her conception of Cherubino in the "Marriage of Figaro" was "Viator's" quotation from Beaumarchais. This "Free Lance"—satisfactorily, we imagine—meets, leaving him thus far in the saddle and his critics on their mother earth. We do not at all hold that it is "brutal" to find fault with defect, and are not willing to admit that Mme. Lucca is by any means above criticism. "Free Lance," however, has enough chivalry to admit that this lady in the fourth act of the "Huguenots" displays qualities in her acting deserving high praise, but does not withdraw one whit what he has said of her singing. Whatever luxury there is in a prolonged high C he fairly pines for it in the third act of the last-named opera; and as it appears in the music why should he be denied it under false pretences? Such he fairly claims to be the apology of "Musicians" about the compression of the prima donna's voice into two octaves. "Musicians" thinks the upper notes to be a judicious omission. "Free Lance" avers that it is judicious because the little lady has worn them out and cannot sing them. This fiery correspondent, it should not be forgotten, has shivered a lance for native talent in the person of Miss Kellogg, praising her singing, but almost agreeing with the others on the want of inspiration in her acting.

Where information is thus put forward, although requiring some trouble to sift it out of differing opinions, we have not felt at liberty to exclude these communications.

From all sides in the controversy we learn that opera is not anything like perfection as given here this season. This has been all along so apparent that the public may shrug its shoulders and add *ca va sans dire*. Notwithstanding the real excellence of Mme. Lucca and one or two others in their proper spheres, we must, however, add one more lesson from the controversy—namely, that the company was not intended by its projectors to be even an approach to that apparent Utopian perfection.

RAILWAY OPENING CEREMONIAL FETE IN JAPAN.—OUR special correspondent in Yokohama, Japan, reports the event of the formal inaugural opening of the first line of railway built in the Empire—that running from Yokohama to Jeddo. The solemnization was completed on the 21st of October with imperial state display amid the universal popular rejoicing of a general holiday. His Majesty the Mikado attended in the full pomp of royalist attire, with soldiers of the line, body guards, bands, Cabinet Ministers and Court officers. He was simply dressed, but in costume of gaudy colors and Eastern "make up." Foreign ministers, native and foreign traders, shipowners, and silk cultivators and manufacturers were present in great numbers. The leading corporate interests offered addresses, to which the Mikado returned replies, which had the great